

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 CU-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /061 W

-----052953 271050Z /10

R 270705Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3794

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MBABANE 0322

MASERU FOR AMBASSADOR, CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SOCI, WZ

SUBJECT: KING'S MEETING PROMOTES RESOLUTION OF TEACHER-
UNREST SITUATION

REF: MBABANE 0191

1. KING'S MEETING WITH TEACHERS TOOK PLACE AS SCHEDULED
JANUARY 21. GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT TEACHERS LEFT ON
UPBEAT NOTE, FEELING THAT KING MUCH BETTER INFORMED ON
SITUATION THAN AT HIS PREVIOUS MEETING WITH THEM ON
OCTOBER 15. HE SAID THAT WHILE THERE HAD BEEN TROUBLEMAKERS
AMONG TEACHERS IN OCTOBER, THERE HAD ALSO BEEN WRONGDOERS
AMONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND POLICE. HE EXPLAINED MEANING
OF SOME METAPHORS HE HAD USED AT PREVIOUS MEETING, CHIDINGLY
ASKING WHETHER HE PERHAPS SHOULD HAVE SPOKEN IN LATIN OR
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GREEK LAST TIME TO BE BETTER UNDERSTOOD BY TEACHERS. IN
IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL GESTURE, KING INVITED REMARKS BY A
TEACHER, WHO DISCREETLY BUT CLEARLY LET OFF STEAM ON BEHALF
OF COLLEAGUES AND WAS ROUNDLY APPLAUDED BY THEM.
TEACHER'S STATEMENT INCLUDED INDIRECT PLEA FOR
REESTABLISHMENT OF SWAZILAND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
TEACHERS, WHICH WAS BANNED IN OCTOBER. KING WAS

NON-COMMITTAL ON THIS POINT. UNIVERSITY RECTOR, WHO WAS PRESENT, TELLS US THAT KING IS PROBABLY SYMPATHETIC BUT MUST DELAY REESTABLISHMENT TO AVOID SEEMING TO BOW UNDER PRESSURE.

2. TEACHERS AND STUDENTS RETURNED TO CLASSROOMS ON JANUARY 24 WITH NO REPORTED INCIDENTS.

3. COMMENT: WITHOUT WISHING TO INTRODUCE ELEMENT OF MOVIE SERIAL INTO THIS SITUATION, USEFUL NEVERTHELESS TO POINT OUT THAT NEXT FOCAL POINT IS APRIL 1, BEGINNING OF GOS FISCAL YEAR, WHEN RELATIVELY LARGE AMOUNTS OF RETRACTIVE PAY HAVE BEEN PROMISED TO TEACHERS. IF GOVERNMENT KEEPS PROMISE, QUIET SHOULD CONTINUE TO PREVAIL. HOWEVER, IF GOVERNMENT PLEADS INABILITY TO MAKE PAYMENTS, WHICH MOST TEACHERS HAVE ALREADY SPENT IN ANTICIPATION, TROUBLE MAY BREW AGAIN.
WACHOB

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